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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/773,009	02/05/2004	Andrew Harvey Barr	200208802-1	5356
22879	7590	04/21/2005	EXAMINER	
HEWLETT PACKARD COMPANY P O BOX 272400, 3404 E. HARMONY ROAD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400			TA, THO DAC	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	

DATE MAILED: 04/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/773,009	Applicant(s) BARR, ANDREW HARVEY	
	Examiner Tho D. Ta	Art Unit 2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 January 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/24/05
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-3, 5, 7-10, 13, 14, 16, 18-21, 24-26, 28, 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Huber et al. (5,851,122).

In regard to claim 1, Huber et al. discloses a connector comprising: a first contact 2 that contacts a conductor of a first circuit (mating connector); a second contact 7 that contacts a conductor of a second circuit (the other mating connector); and a capacitor 19 coupled between the first and second contacts, the capacitor 19 being serially coupled only to the first and second contacts 2, 7 whereby, the connector capacitively couples the conductor of the first circuit to the conductor of the second circuit.

In regard to claim 2, Huber et al. discloses that an electrically insulative body 1 encapsulating the capacitor 19 and carrying the first and second contacts 2, 7.

In regard to claim 3, Huber et al. discloses that the second contact 7 is a male contact.

In regard to claim 5, Huber et al. discloses the first and second contacts 2, 7 are disposed along a substantially common line.

In regard to claim 7, Huber et al. discloses that a plurality of first contacts 2, 3, 5, 6, a like plurality of second contacts 7, 8, 9, 10, and a like plurality of capacitors 19, 20, 21, 22, each capacitor coupled between a different respective pair of the first and second contacts.

In regard to claim 8, Huber et al. discloses that the plurality of first contacts 2, 3, 5, 6 and the plurality of second contacts 7, 8, 9, 10 lie in a substantially common plane.

In regard to claim 9, Huber et al. discloses that the plural contact sets of the plurality of first and second contacts lying in a substantially common plane.

In regard to claim 10, Huber et al. discloses that the plural contact sets are disposed substantially parallel to each other.

In regard to claim 13, Huber et al. discloses a connector comprising: an insulative body 1; a first contact 2 carried by the body 1 that contacts a conductor of a first circuit (mating connector); a second contact 7 carried by the body 1 that contacts a conductor of a second circuit (the other mating connector); and a capacitor 19 encapsulated within the body 1 and coupled between the first and second contacts 2, 7, the capacitor 19

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being serially coupled only to the first and second contacts 2, 7 whereby, the connector capacitively couples the conductor of the first circuit to the conductor of the second circuit.

In regard to claim 14, Huber et al. discloses that the second contact 7 is a male contact.

In regard to claim 16, Huber et al. discloses the first and second contacts 2, 7 are disposed along a substantially common line.

In regard to claim 18, Huber et al. discloses that a plurality of first contacts 2, 3, 5, 6, a like plurality of second contacts 7, 8, 9, 10, and a like plurality of capacitors 19, 20, 21, 22, each capacitor coupled between a different respective pair of the first and second contacts.

In regard to claim 19, Huber et al. discloses that the plurality of first contacts 2, 3, 5, 6 and the plurality of second contacts 7, 8, 9, 10 lie in a substantially common plane.

In regard to claim 20, Huber et al. discloses that the plural contact sets of the plurality of first and second contacts lying in a substantially common plane.

In regard to claim 21, Huber et al. discloses that the plural contact sets are disposed substantially parallel to each other.

In regard to claim 24, Huber et al. discloses a connector comprising:
a plurality of first contact 2, 3, 5, 6, each first contact 2, 3, 5, 6 contacting a respective one of a like plurality of conductors of a first circuit (mating connector); a second like plurality of contacts 7, 8, 9, 10, each second contact 7, 8, 9, 10 contacting a respective one of a like plurality of conductors of a second circuit (another mating connector); and a like plurality of capacitors 19, 20, 21, 22 coupled between respective pairs of the first and second contacts, each capacitor being serially coupled only to a respective pair of the first and second contacts whereby, the connector capacitively couples each conductor of the first circuit to a corresponding respective conductor of the second circuit.

In regard to claim 25, Huber et al. discloses that an electrically insulative body 1 encapsulating the capacitor 19, 20, 21, 22 and carrying the first and second contacts 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10.

In regard to claim 26, Huber et al. discloses the first and second contacts 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 are disposed along a substantially common line.

In regard to claim 28, Huber et al. discloses that the plurality of first contacts 2, 3, 5, 6 and the plurality of second contacts 7, 8, 9, 10 lie in a substantially common plane.

In regard to claim 29, Huber et al. discloses that the plural contact sets are disposed substantially parallel to each other.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 4, 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huber et al. in view of Dolin, Jr. (5,192,231).

In regard to claims 4, 15, Huber et al. does not disclose that the first contact 2 is a female contact.

Dolin, Jr. discloses a coupler with one end having male contacts 28, 30, 32 and the opposite end having female contacts 18, 20, 22.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Huber et al. invention by constructing the connector with one end having male contacts and the opposite end having female contacts as disclosed by Dolin, Jr. in order to provide a versatile connector/adaptor.

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5. Claims 6, 11, 12, 17, 22, 23, 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huber et al..

In regard to claims 6, 17, 27, Huber et al. does not disclose that the first and second contacts 2, 7 are disposed substantially transverse to each other.

It would have been obvious to modify Huber et al. invention by having the first and second contacts 2, 7 are disposed substantially transverse to each other, since applicant has not disclosed that having the first and second contacts extends at this specific direction solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose and it appears that the connecting device would perform equally well with any directions.

In regard to claims 11, 22, the recitation "an integrated circuit", it has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. Ex parte Masham, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (1987).

In regard to claims 12, 23, the recitation "a printed circuit board", it has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. Ex parte Masham, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (1987).

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-29 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tho D. Ta whose telephone number is (571) 272-2014. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



THO D. TA
PRIMARY EXAMINER